

Testimony Concerning SB-445
Susan Pinckney
Concerned Citizen

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of SB-445 – “An act concerning certain recommendations of the task force on the sale of cats and dogs from inhumane origins at Connecticut pet shops.”

I am a registered voter in Deep River, and I am a concerned citizen who strongly supports SB-445 and the task force recommendations.

I feel that it is imperative that we take action to protect the rights of animals and future owners in our state. I can see no reason other than pure greed that the inhumane practice of the sale of puppy mill pets continues. We need to do everything in our power to eliminate this shameful commerce.

So many animals are not only abused but also illegally bred, and inbred, by unqualified, disreputable breeders. While these animals are being exploited and their offspring are sold at pet stores, thousands of healthy happy dogs and cats are being euthanized every year because there are not enough homes for them.

My sister and her husband became victims when they were sold a dog that came from a dishonest breeder. They forked over a large amount of cash for a Great Dane with the expectation from previous experience that he would be a good dog to have with children. It turned out that he suffered from a congenital defect caused by inbreeding.

Within less than a year they had to have the dog put down because he became a danger to the neighborhood children. Not only were they and their young boys devastated by the loss of a beloved pet, but they were out a large sum of cash from the purchase and the euthanization of this dog. If the "lemon law" proposed in this bill were in effect at that time they could have at least received their money back.

I strongly feel that we must take action to prevent the needless deaths of these innocent animals. Should the house vote to pass this bill, pet stores will be forced to provide animals from only rescue sources and highly qualified breeders. Customers will be more likely to get a healthy animal and rescued animals will get a home.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Susan J Pinckney
Deep River, CT